Foreign Companies in Broadcasting Sector

5281. SHRI ILIYAS AZMI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the foreign companies which have recently been given permission to telecast the programmes in India;

(b) the terms and conditions under which these companies have been given such permission;

(c) the details of the companies out of them which are telecasting the programmes in the Indian languages and the postion in regard to programmes being telecast in English language by them;

(d) the duration of telecasting the channel-wise programmes by these companies daily; and

(e) whether any amount or royalty is being given to the Government by these companies; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No such permission has been given by the Government.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

Free/Concessional Air Tickets for Employees of IA

5282. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of Indian Airlines are provided with free/concessional air tickets in-service and after retirement as well;

(b) whether they are provided with inter-line tickets for being the employees of Airlines;

(c) if so, the reasons for not providing them with inter-line tickets after retirement;

(d) whether any scheme to provide this facility to these employees is under consideration; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Granting of inter-line tickets to serving and retired employees is at the discretion of the airlines, to whom the application is sent under IATA Resolution 788. There is no bar on grant of inter-line tickets to retired employees.

(d) and (e) In view of the reply given to 'C' above, do not arise.

[English]

Airport used in 2nd World War

5283. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the airport which was used in 2nd world war, now lying vacant by the side of the G.T. Road towards north in between Durgapur and Andal in West Bengal is proposed to be renovated; and

(b) if so, the time by which the renovation work is likely to be completed and the air port commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Loan Provide to Private Air Operators by RBI

5284. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS:

SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether RBI has reviewed the guidelines for amending term loan to provide funds to private air operators in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any consultation were held by him with the Finance Ministry and Air Taxi Operators; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and also the details of the new guidelines issued?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (d) On 12th March, 1997 a meeting was held with the representatives of the Department of Banking, leading financial institutions, commercial banks and scheduled airlines to discuss financing policy for private airlines operating in the domestic sector, with a view to facilitating arrangements to meet their long-term requirements. Follow-up action by R.B.I. in this regard is in progress. In the meeting held by R.B.I., Airlines operators have agreed that existing R.B.I. guidelines cover their cases also. In view of this consensus, a review of the R.B.I. guidelines on credit dispensation is not required at this stage. However, R.B.I. intends continuing regular meetings to assess and review the position regarding financing of airline industry.

Standard of Newe Services

5285. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made by the Government media in projecting the national and interna-